



December 5, 2019

TO: SISC Member Districts  
FROM: Safety & Loss Control Staff  
SUBJECT: Holiday Season

### **Use of Dry Ice**

It's the time of year for fall carnivals, proms, and homecoming football games. The season brings with it the potential use of dry ice to enhance the atmosphere of these events. Therefore, this Update serves as a reminder of the hazards regarding dry ice and SISC's recommendation against its use.

Dry ice is listed as a hazardous material by the federal government. Students should not be using or handling dry ice under any circumstances. Hazards associated with the use of dry ice include:

- **Burns:** Dry ice is a cryogenic material that can cause severe frostbite burns to skin.
- **Explosion:** If stored in an air-tight container, pressure may build potentially causing an explosion.
- **Toxic:** Although dry ice is not poisonous, it could be fatal, or at least cause severe damage to internal organs, even if a small piece is ingested.
- **Suffocation:** If used in confined areas, the carbon dioxide emitted may displace oxygen causing an oxygen deficient environment.

Dry ice may also be used in science programs. School administration should inform staff that the use of dry ice by any student is prohibited.

SISC does not recommend the use of dry ice by a district under any circumstances. The hazards outweigh the benefits.

### **Christmas Trees at School Sites**

The Christmas season will soon be here and SISC wants to make sure that school districts are aware of county and state guidelines with respect to the maintenance and decoration of Christmas trees so that children and staff can enjoy a safe, happy Christmas season.

To that end SISC has adopted the Kern County Fire Department guidelines for Christmas trees as the minimum standard for all SISC member districts.

In addition to Christmas trees, teachers often decorate their rooms with festive themes for the holiday season. The abundance of paper decorations can present a serious fire hazard. The limitations on decorative materials should be reviewed at this time to help coordinate safety with holiday decorating.

Should you have any questions regarding this concern, please contact your SISC Safety representative at (661) 636-4604.